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LETTERS OF WILLIAM BYRD, FIRST

(From his Letter Book on the Collection of the Virginia Historical Society)

(Continued)

To Arthur North

Virg'a Xb,r ye 11'th 1688

S'r

Yo:'rs p Tregany & Bradly I rec'd though that p East not yett come to Hand nor my Goods from Bradly, I hope wee shall give him a reasonable dispatch, although Tob'o proves as bad this year as ever knowne being generally hous burnt or Sweat so much that its Husky, My last to you by Allen I find you had not rec'd w'th m'r Giles Webbs rec't for £200 but I hear Allen was safely arrived in the West of England, ere these ships come away, so I suppose the rec:'t may come safe. Inclosed is a bill of Ex:'ea from Giles Webb charged on your selfe for 100 St:'g w:'ch I hope you'l give mee Creditt for, Giles telling mee hee had advice from his Bro: to draw on you & hath Showne mee his Bro: Letter where hee promiseth him itt shall bee p'd All I gett by itt is to Serve yo:'r friend so I hope I may not suffer by itt, My humble service to all our friends, tell Tom Gower his Bro: Abell is Dead, & please to acquaint m'r Bassano & m'r Herpur I shall not bee unmindfull of their businesse

Protest come apace on E B therefore if you have anything to Say its time to Looke out, My wife (who hath been ill some moneths) give her service to your selfe & good m'rs North & So doth

S'r

Yo'r fr'd & Serv't

W B

To m'r Arthur North

p Wynne

To Perry and Lane

Virginia Xb'r y'e 11'th 1688

Gent

This accompanys Cap't Wynne w:'th 36 H'ds Tobacco as p inclosed bill of ladeing he hath promised me to take in two ho:'ds of Furres & skins and to give M'r Perry bills of Ladeing for them who will inclose y'm to you I have put 90 H'ds of Tobacco on board Brome & truly he hath been very unkind haveing promised me any time this ½ year to take me in 4 H'ds of skins & hath now left y'm all out as to Crops we had y'e mostt promising this year I ever knew but was generally Spoiled by some thicke close weather in 7'br soe that now Tobacco is (for y'e greatest part) either House burnt or hath sweat so much that its become (as you call it) Husky though I dare say y't if mine on board Winne and Brome will not pass for good you must expect none this yeare either from Virginia or Maryland w'ch has made as bad Tobacco this year as we They have had an assembly lately in Maryland about Bulk for w'ch of late my Lord Baltimore hath sent orders but what they have done I know not

We were all surprized on Wynns arrivall w'th acco'ts from Barbados where we find all our effects sent thither (after soe Long expectation of acco'ts) comes to just nothing Wynn I find hath Charged bills for £246 st'g on my acco'ts w'ch I hope you will pay however our hard Measure Our firest Winds[?] coming to soe little in Barbados we could wish he had bought y'e lastt hither I am shure they would have yeilded a double price to what we can now expect. (goods I desire from Barbados are 1600 Gall'ns Rum 4000 l. Muse: Sug:'r ab't 2't Loaf Sug'r) [written on margin.] Wynne saith he saw M'r Dalby Thomas on y'e Exchange a day or two before he come away and that he told him of his readinesse to saile and M'r Thomas told him he had no business only wished him a good Voyadg where y'e fault lyes I know not but it appeares there was a grosse error some where, what to doe now w'th y'e ship we know not, some propose she

should saile Round by Ireland whilest others think she had better saile directly to Barbados w'th Letters of Creditt or pcc 8/8 either I am contended with and Leave it to you whate you judg mostt sensible all y'e p'es concerned seem much dissatisfied w'th M'r Thomas & Sadlier as I suppose you will heare more at Large from others therefore if Wynne comes by Barbadose I shall desire these goods in y'e Margent & refer y'e Method wholy to yo'r selves who haveing rec'd advice from all y'e p'tys concerned may Act accordingly

Yo'rs by Emberly Hall & Bradley lately come to hand but have not yett rec'd y'e goods I shall indeavour what may be Halls dispatch of w'ch I think there is no question of wether P'mitt though Tobb. being generally so bad occasions some difficulty Jack Wynn complaines that he is denyed y'e previledge of a Tun freight w'ch is allowed to all Mas'ters of small Vessells I told him I knew nothing of it but if itts his due I am contended to allow it he alsoe tells me of l. 23 stg mony charged to him w'ch should a been Charg y'e owners and would p'suade me that he must have l. 46 sd money for it but his discourse is not always to clear as to me to be intelligable so in y'e name by his consent we have refered it to M'r Per'r [Peter?] Perry to whome he hath promised to produce all his papers w'ch he had not here w'th him

I have charged on y'ou l. 65 to Wynne for freight w'ch I desire you to pay inclosed is Mr Ed: Braines on your selves for l. 24 w'ch I hope youle give me Creditt for By y'e firestt oppertunity I desire you to send me 20 lb of Grape shot w'ch I fear I shall want also some malt w'ch you or I forgott

My service to all friends my blessing to y'e Child'n with best respects and service to good Mrs Perry Mr Rich'd and please accept y'e same from

Gent

Your friend & servant
W B

Duplicate. One sent p Wynne & one p Brome

To Mess:'rs Perry & Lane

To Perry and Lane

Virg'a Jan'ry y'e 23'th 1690(?)

Gen't

These are onely to acquaint you of o'r wellfare & y't I have rec'd yo'rs by Jeffrys, Arnall, Ruddes, &c I am heartily sorry to hear of y'e troubles w'th you, Pray God give a good issue to them I have a considerable quantity of skins by mee but dare not venture them till I hear farther, Ben Hall is a little behind by reason of some inconvenient notes & y'e Wett Weather, yet hope hee may Saile herewith, I have Order'd what Tob'o hee now wants to fill him up by the River Side, so y't hee assures mee hee will Sail next weeke, Wyn & Brome I hope may bee now with you, Pray God Send all Safe home & you all peace & prosperity I am Gen't

Yo'r Humble Serv't

W B

To Mess'rs [P. & L. in monogram] p Emberly

To———

Virg'a Jan'ry y'e 23'th 1688

S'r

This serves onely to accompany the James, Cap't Emberly by whom have Sent yo'u 2 H'ds ffurs & skins as p bill of Ladeing & Invoice will appear. My Last to you was by Jn'o Wyn, by whom I sent you Giles Webbs bills of Ex:'ea on yo'r Selfe for 100't w'ch I hope you will give mee Creditt for, as allso the 200 l. Sent p rec:'t y'e Quaker Ketch, w:'ch you as well as m'r Webb ingaged to See mee rep'd. I find Some mistakes in yo'r Invoice & Acco:'t but being now from home cannot bee P'ticular nor inlarge Am heartily Sorry to hear of y'e destractions of my Native Country(1). God Send

(1) The arbitrary measures of James II, which led to the Revolution, were fast becoming well known in Virginia. As a Londoner Byrd was probably a good Whig.

all our ships Safe home & Send us Peace, & you, your Lady w'th all friends all happiness is the Prayer of

S'r
Yo'r Humble Serv't
W B

Cap't Bradly I hear designes to Saile herewith, by whom hope to write farther

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Virg'a Jan'ry 28'th 1688

S'r

These come w'th Cap't Bradly, w'th 100 H'ds Tob'o I wish all safe to you I wrote 3 days Since by Emberly by whom Sent you two H'ds ffurres. I wonder I have not heard from yo:'u since Ruddes, This day am going to Cap't Randolphs to drink yo:'rs & all friends healths, where expect Cap't Bradly or one from him, for y'e letters So cannot inlarge. You charge mee in your Acco't 19 l: 16's: 9'd for Haberdashery as p Birdseye bill of whom I had none, for y'e Haberdashery sent p y'e Sam'll is charged in your Invoice 11 l: 12's: 8'd & p note S'd to bee bought of Jn'o Lardner in Cateater Street You also charge Some things Sent to m'r Perry w'ch I never heard of, but shall Say no more att present, by Ruddes hope to have time to inlarge in the mean time I wish you & all our friends health peace & prosperity & remain

S'r
Yo'r Humble Serv't
W. B.

The 6 Swords & Belts not charged att all nor no note for them

---

To Perry and Lane.

Virg'a Jan'ry y'e 28'th 1688

Gen't

I wrote to you five days Since by Cap't Emberly & have not time to adde anything this onely being to accompany

Bradly & to cover the inclosed. Hall, I hope may accompany this I am now goeing to Cap't Randolphs to meet him & take my bills of Ladeing: Pray God send all safe home; I have taken what care possible this year in receiving of Tob:'o & though what I have cannot bee Said to bee reall good, yett, I hope itt may appear as well as any this year, Mr Paggens(2) people receiving so little hath made more choice of Tob'o in these P'ts then otherwise would have been, I shall have a considerable quantity on board Cap't Morgans I wish itt may answer our trouble, skins &c I thinke to keep till safer times w'ch pray God Send, B Bradly hath abused mee notoriously these 2 years in y'e files for my Mill Saws, In M'r Norths Acc't A'o cop hee charges mee 1 do'n files for Steel Mill Saws (when he put up none) as p Bradly's own note may appear how hee Sends 2 do'n not wor a farthing for my use, being not ¼ Large enough, but of y't more hereafter My Humble Service to all fr'ds & blessing to y'e Child'n I am

Gen't
Yo'r Humble Serv't
W B

To P. & L. Pr Bradly

To Norrell Bassano

Virg'a Jan'ry y'e 29:'th 1688

S:'r

This by Cap't Bradly Serves onely to cover y'e inclosed I abated 12's.6'd of yo'r due & tooke them att So long time rather then Stay till Aprill, I hope you will be Satisfyed for I acted as for my Self, & yo'r haveing the Bills in time, I thought might more bee to your advantage, then y'e time they are charged att can prejudice you, Yesterday & this are Sacrificed to our friends, to drinke yours & all our friends healths, My Service to m'r Harpur, assure him I am not unmindfull of his buisinesse in Aprill, I shall come to a

(2) Peter Paggin, a London merchant, who did very extensive trade with Virginia.

Tryall w:'th Littleton & doubt not but m'r Harpur will find all Justice, Pray give my Service to all o'r friends

I am S'r

Yo'r frd & Serv:'t

W B

To m'r Norrell Bassano p Bradley w'th E B's 1'st bill of Ex'er for 34 l.

To Perry and Lane.

Virginia Jan:'ry y'e 29'th 1688

Gen't

This p Ben: Hall Serves onely to cover the inclosed w'ch I hope will gett Safe to yo:'r Hands; I hope to write more at Large but for fear I misse an Oppertunity to Send my Letters, have given you this trouble. My Service to yo'r good Ladys, m'r Rich'd & all our friends

I am Gent

Yo'r Humble Serv't

W B

To P & L.: P y'e Byrd

1'st Bills of Ex:'ea Sent hereto

PP for...11 l:

F E 5: 1

WR 5: 12

21: 13

all charged on y'urselves

To ———

Virg'a Ult'o Jan'ry 1688

Gen't

I wrote to you by Hall & Bradly within these 2 or 3 days, & believe this may overtake them, for I hear they are like to find a Small Stop ere they gett out, Pray God Send all

Safe home, inclosed is a list of Some Small bills Sent you by the s'd ships, charged on your selves & m'r North; I desire that for all bills of Ex:'er I send you, you would give mee Creditt on my Acco't as Audito:'r & not intermix my Private Acco:'ts w:'th the Public, I thinke Suddenly to visitt Some of the Collecto:'rs & then you may expect Some considerable Summes: I am in some perplexity not knowing what to doe w:'th my furres & skins, but w:'th Some impatience expect Burrell, by whom wish to receive some better news, though can Scarce hope itt, God send all for the best. Your Acco:'t I rec'd p Arnall, & am concerned to find the Ballance So considerable for had the old Tob'o been burnt, or throwne overboard at first itt had Saved mee some pounds. I wish Tob'o may mend now, or else its high time to leave of: I find in yo'r Acco't 15 Xb'r A D'o 1687 my Selfe charged, w:'th 3 Articles att Severall times for money p'd towards my 1/16 p't of Cap't Morgans new Ship att Shoreham. Viz't £12:10's 2d in Aug: 15 l: 12's: 6'd, & y'e Last 28 l: 2's: 6d, w'ch is y'e onely Sum yo'u give mee Creditt for, & charge mee 227 l: 19's: 4'd: w'ch is the full Price of my 1/16 P'te, therefore I ought to have Creditt for the other two summes w'ch amount to £28.02s.0d I have had little time Since the rec:'t of y'e Acco:'t haveing Scarce been att my owne House two day's since y'e rec't of yo'r Letters: I have borrowed 40 Roundlets of Shott Viz't 20 lb. of Goose shot of Cap't Roger Jones, hee desired mee to write to you to Ship So much on my Acco:'t & Send itt to him by the first convenience, w'ch I hope you will p'forme, Since I was like to want that commodity, had not hee lent itt mee, I acquainted yo'u w'th p Bradly w'ch his brothers mistake about ye files, hee charges mee by his note to m'r North of July 12:'th 1687; w'th 2 doz whip saw files 9s & for 100 London ditto at 10s: w:'ch last was never put up, & those sent now are of no use to mee, being much too small; I desire therefore that hee would put mee up at Least a do'n Large rounde files for my Steel Mill Saws, & procure mee 6 Steel Saws, of ¼ Same dimensions of those formerly Sent, & y't I may have them by

the first convenience; In Aprill when my L'd w:'th the Councell meets, I will propose the matter about y'e Irish & West Country Bills, & doe my indeavor itt may bee answer'd; Kitt Morgan & Jn'o Ruddes will Sail Long before, by whom you shall hear farther: My humble Service to all friends, My blessing to y'e Child:'n Wishing you all peace & prosperity I remain

Gen't
Yo'r Humble Servant
W:'m B

Postscript

I rec'd p Hall an Ann. of Rhenish wine mentioned in your Package bill & bill of Ladeing but no where charged mee, therefore desire to know on what Acco:'t it is Sent mee that I may give my thankes accordingly. I am Sorry you were not fuller about y'e Chirstall what Sent, I know was foul, & full of flaws, but I gave you the reason being on the Surface of the earth the injury's of y'e fire & weather made itt foul, & being rudely broke of, by the Indians Hatchetts, might well make itt full of flaws, but I also writt that if Stones that were large, without flaws, & as clear as the best of them were Valueable, I know itt might very well answer expectacon.

I am
Gen't
Yo'rs
W B

A List of Bills of Ex:'ea
Sent you p Wynne Hall & Bradly
p Wynn y'e 1'st bill. 2'd p Brome

	l	s	d
M'r Edw'd Brains on yo'r selves for p Bradly..	24	—	—
Ditto Branis on Ditto for.....	03:	01	—
Cap't P'r Perry on Ditto for.....	06:	01	—
m'r James Blair on m'r North for.....	02:	19	—
Cap't ffras Epes on ditto for	05:	.01	—
Cap't Wm. Randolph on ditto for.....	05:	10	—

p Hall

Cap't P'r Perry on yourselves for	11:	00:	00
Cap't ffras: Epes on ditto for.....	05:	01	—
Cap't W'm Randolph on Ditto for	05:	12	—
	68	05	

W B

To John Thomas & Co., Barbadoes

Virg'a 20 ffeb'ry 1688

Gen't

I beg your pardon that I have not written to you ere this, my abode being So remote from Shipping I rarely hear of any bound for your parts, The Goods by y'e Effingham & Wyn I rec'd; though very much damage by y'e Last by reason of bad Caske all the Goods (especially the Melasses) thought by all extravagantly dear, the Caske very bad & Small, Scarce one had above 25 Gall'ns in itt 8 of those to a tun is very hard, others within a moneth of y:'t had in great Caske 320 Gall:'ns to y'e tun att y'e Same price: though Small Caske are most convenient here for Sale, yet no man would loose above 1/3 for that conveniency, & those Small Sug'r Caske w:'th y'e other p'd as much fraight as if they had been as big again; I find all p'sons here extreamly dissatisfyed w:th your proceedings If Wynne had as he promised Sold the Madera Wine for 4 or 5 l. P'r pipe wee had all been well Satisfyed, for wee should have been certain of our Losse, w:'ch now wee cannot guesse att, When y'e Last was left, you were pleased to write, that you could have 10 or 12 l. p pipe. though I thinke none of us clear'd what it cost at first in Madera's w'th the ffreight, Now it was worth nothing, w'th you, & if you had Sent itt hither, wee doubt not, but wee could have doubled what you allowed us for y'e Last, w'thout the Charges upon itt, I have given Mess:'rs Perry & Lane an Acco't of y'e bills Wynne charged on my Acco:'t & doubt not but they are allowed: I find itt impossible for us to continue or Trade to your parts, otherways then by ready mony

or bills of Ex:'ea. Wynne is gone before Xmas for England If hee arrive Safe I have left my part to m:'rs Perry & Lane to Send him hither again by Barbados or what else they may Judge most convenient or the Least Losse, times being So unsettled wee know not what to resolve, God Send all for y'e best, I hope when you have disposed of y'e Wine, you will Send us an Acco:'t, that I may See in what State my p'ticular is, & Satisfy if I remain D:'r on y'e Ballance I am

Gen't

Yo'r most Humble Serv't

W B.

To Jn'o Thomas Esq'r & Comp. in Barbados

To Perry and Lane

Virg'a Ult'o ffeb'ry 1688

Gen't

This serves onely to Cover the inclosed bills of Ex'e & acquaint you that his Excellency my L'd Effingham (by whom this comes) now goeing for England, I have charged bills of Ex:'ea on you payable to his L'dship for 607 l. 04's w'ch I desire you to pay Accordingly and place to my Acco:'t as Audito:'r, allso to give mee Creditt for all the bills I send you on the s'd Acco:'t & not mix them w:'th my private concernes, I hope to write more att Large by Cap't Morgan who I expect will Sail herewith therefore w:'th best respects now take Leave I am

Gen't

Yo'r Humble Serv't

W B

To Mess:'rs Perry & Lane p my L'd Effingham

To Perry and Lane.

Virg'a 5 March 1688

Gen't

I wrote to you last weeke from Rapahanocke by my Lord

Effingham, wherewith I sent you a p'cell of bills of Ex:'ea the 2'd bills are inclosed, as allso Some 2'd bills of Halls & Bradly's, & a 1:'st Bill of m'r Secretary's for 20 l. hee desired me not to Send itt before this moneth (though I have had itt some time, by mee) w:'ch makes itt of so old a date, I allso then acquainted you that I had charged a bill of Ex:'ea on you payable to my L'd Effingham for 607 l., w'ch I hope you will readily honor for Govern:'s must not Stay for their money, there could not att this juncture bee any thing done about the West country & irish bills: the best way (if please God things were Settled in England) would bee to promote the matter there, & procure Orders from the Treasury, to the Collectors here to oblidge all persons to pay his Majesty's duty's by bills of Ex:'ea for London, but must refer that to a more Seasonable time.

Wee are in great expectation to hear of affairs out of England, God in mercy Send all for y'e best, All y'e ships in this river full & now ready to Saile, a great deale of Tob:'o left behind, w:'ch might be purchased reasonably but no freight to bee had, I wish wee had not occasion to repent Shipping what wee have, for Tob'o is generally very bad & Light, but I hope our parts may answer as well as any, If you have any trade, Sure Wynne & Brome (if they gott well home) may come to Some thing: I shall keep a great p'cell of Skins &c: by mee, not knowing what to doe, & for goods I know not what to Say, being unwilling yet to send for any, I have a great part of this years by mee, most I want is plain Shoes & Hoes, So I suppose it may bee time enough to Send p next fleet, who are designed to Sail about y'e 10'th of May, when I Suppose I may send you a considerable p'cell of bills, and hope there will never bee occasion to anticipate any mony on y'e Acco't of y'e Revenue, & though you have Some West country Bills, yet you will have as many (I believe) on your Selves, I fear m'r Secretary's, & Col'o Custis will bring most West Country or irish bills, but Col'o Custis his Collection is inconsiderable, & the Secretary's (I thinke) none of the biggest, I desired you by one of y'e Last of Jan:'ry to

Send to Roger Jones 40 Rundlets id est 20 l. of Goose Shott, w:'ch I borrowed of him this winter therefore hope you will Send them him by the first oppertunity on my Acco:'t as allso to bee mindfull of my files & Mill Saws Cap't Morgan now Stays for this, therefore w:'th best respects & Service to all where due, I take Leave

Gen't

Yo'r Humble Serv't W B

To Mess:'rs Perry & Lane p Morgan

To Thomas Methwold.

K'd S'r Virg:'a March y'e 5:'th 1688

In Octob'r last I rec'd a list of some Seeds & Nuts from my L'd Effingham, who desired mee to procure them for you & though nothing could have obliged my diligence more then to serve you, yet the Seaso'n of y'e year being past itt was impossible for mee to procure them, Onely Some Walnuts & Hickery Nuts of both kinds w'th the Pishamin Seed w'ch I have sent herewith in a barrell m'rked M & ordered to bee delivered to m'r ffra: Lee

ffor y'e remainder I designee (God willing) to procure against the next fall, & then intend to Send them you by the 1:'st ships from these parts

I would know wo't m'r Loudon means by Cyperus w'th leaves like Acacia if it is not our Cyprus I know not what hee intends

By this fleet his Excellency my L'd Effingham comes for England I pray God Send his L'dship a good Voyage & Safe to Hale House where hee may find all things to his desire

I shall not give you any farther trouble att present but w'th my most Humble Service to Madam Methwold & all y'e little ones, & my hearty thankes for all y'e fav'rs I rec'd, I Humbly take Leave

Hon'd S'r

Yo'r most oblg'd Humble Serv't

To Tho Methwold Esq:'r W B

(To be continued)